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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY China

SUBJECT Attitude of Chinese toward USSR/Toward Chinese
Communist Authorities/Toward Nationalists

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NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO
REPORT NO.Attitude of Chinese Peasants toward Soviet Russians

2. (a) The Soviet Russians are intensely disliked by the Chinese peasants. The children from Chinese farms adjoining my property frequently use my place as a playground. Several times I have seen them when Russians were passing shout: "Su Lien" (Soviet) spit and follow up with a stream of obscenities. Obviously the children take their cue from their elders. I have heard the same sort of abusive comment from peasants in the villages in my vicinity. To call a Chinese peasant or workman a "red" or to say he is doing his job in the "red" way is an open insult and an invitation to a fight. One may call him a Communist without offense but not a "red"; the latter term has come to mean a Russian Communist and it is the Russian angle which is resented.

(b) The old French Arsenal grounds were a favorite picnic spot for my young daughter and her friends. They found however that they could no longer go there. They were not known personally to the neighborhood Chinese, who took them to be Russians and gathered and hurled insults and abuse at them: "Su Lien" plus obscenities and "Hung Kuei" - Red Devils.

(c) The same feeling obtains among workmen in the city (of Tientsin), but because there is effective police control it is not expressed so openly.

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- 2 -

Attitude toward Chinese Communist Government

3. (a) During 1949-1950 the Communist authorities in Tientsin encouraged adult education, and went so far as to require an employer to provide education for any employee who demanded it. Workmen are now refusing to attend educational classes. They explain that they are not against education itself but that they refuse to have someone dictate to them what they must study. They are particularly incensed at being required to sing "Soviet" songs. If the authorities try to press them to attend classes they reply: "We cannot fill our work norms if you make us attend classes." The same thing happens in the villages. The Communists send inspection teams to them to check on what is going on. The teams are treated with disrespect and met with passive resistance.

(b) In the early days of the Communist regime, a village or an industrial plant would be told to send so and so many men to march in a parade, and would comply. Now if the village is called on for say 200 men, the authorities are lucky if a dozen turn up. If the authorities try to force matters they are met with the same reply: "We cannot fulfill our norms if we march in parades."

(c) On Communist holidays, 1 May and 1 Oct, there used to be prolific displays of flags in both the city and the suburban villages. Now 1953 there are very very few; perhaps 50 where there used to be 5,000.

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(d)

(e) Even the students who were pretty solidly for the regime at first are now becoming disillusioned and doubtful.

(f) To sum up the position, the Chinese attitude is: "It was bad under the Nationalists and we thought the Communists could not be worse. We were wrong. Under the Nationalists we could at least live but now even that is difficult." There is widespread and bitter discontent but there is no movement progress to turn the discontent into positive action. The Nationalists are not particularly liked, although the criticism is not directed at Chiang Kai-shek personally. The Chinese are vaguely hoping for some new leader to appear, and more usually for a new world war to break out. I am sure that the peasantry would rise up as a man and welcome any invader, except the Russians, who would deliver them from the Communists.

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